

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF NET CORPS
ACT OF 2001

HON. MIKE HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2001

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, it was once conventional wisdom that if you merely put computers in classrooms, the quality of our children's education would dramatically improve. No doubt, our schools are better because of the presence of computers, but we have learned that our teachers and administrators must be better trained and assisted if we are to maximize the use of computers and the Internet in schools.

Today, I will introduce legislation that expands the Corporation for National Service by creating a National Education Technology (NET) Corps that works with our school teachers and administrators to integrate technology into classroom curriculum.

NET Corps will work to improve the quality of classroom education for our children by coupling the specific needs of our school systems with the energy and intellect of some of the brightest people in our academic institutions and high tech industry.

In addition to recruiting students from America's universities, the federal government will encourage high tech businesses to lend their employees to the NET Corps program—on a part-time or full-time basis—by offering these corporations a tax credit.

Already, my proposal has drawn strong support from Silicon Valley executives, teachers and the non-profit community who recognizes that career opportunities for the next generation of Americans will increasingly come from our fast-paced, knowledge economy. Over two-thirds of economic growth stems from technological innovation—our students must be empowered with high tech skills so they can navigate, adapt and succeed in the Internet economy.

As a Peace Corps volunteer in El Salvador in the 1960s, I believe that NET Corps is an excellent model. I understand the positive impact that direct service programs have in our communities and the lives of volunteers. The NET Corps programs will afford opportunities to our professional men and women to make contributions to our schools and our children.

As a former high school teacher and a Member of this body representing Silicon Valley, I'm proud to introduce legislation that will foster a cooperative working relationship between schoolteachers and high-tech savvy volunteers to improve the quality of our children's education.

THE GENERATOR TARIFF REPEAL
ACT

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2001

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce legislation that would repeal the duty on the importation of replacement steam generators used in nuclear power plants.

Steam generators are necessary for the operation of nuclear power facilities. However, because they are no longer produced in the United States, domestic electric utilities must import replacement nuclear steam generators. Despite the fact that there is neither a current nor any reasonable likelihood of future domestic manufacturing capability, a tariff is imposed on these imports. Prior to the conclusion of last year's Congress, a reduction in this tariff was included in the Miscellaneous Trade and Technical Corrections Act (H.R. 4868). Because a full repeal would have breached the limitation on revenue impact for the bipartisan miscellaneous trade bill, the original full repeal of the tariff was changed to a reduction to 4.9%.

This tariff should be removed. While providing no benefit to any domestic manufacturer, this expensive tax is borne directly by domestic consumers of electricity. The cost of the duty is passed on to the ratepayer through the state public utility commissions in rate-making proceedings. In short, the consumer pays this unnecessary tax directly and entirely. There is no domestic manufacturing industry to protect and the consumer derives no benefit from this tax. Except for raising a minor amount of revenue for the Treasury, this is a classic case of a tariff that serves no purpose other than to raise costs for consumers.

This tariff repeal legislation has enjoyed strong bipartisan support in both the House of Representatives and the other body. I ask my colleagues to join the effort again this year to eliminate this unneeded tariff by cosponsoring the Generator Tariff Repeal Act.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL SELDENRIGHT
CHAMPION OF HOPE TRIBUTE
DINNER FOR THE NATIONAL KIDNEY
FOUNDATION OF MICHIGAN

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan is an organization with a noble mission: to prevent and eliminate diseases of the kidney and urinary tract, to enhance the quality of life for people with kidney disease through education, services, advocacy

and research, and to increase organ donation. We all share the National Kidney Foundation's vision of "Making Lives Better" so that every individual will have the opportunity to live a healthy life.

Each year the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan has honored several Michigan residents who are outstanding members of the community and have helped in the campaign for the treatment of kidney disease and increased awareness of organ and tissue donation. This evening, the Foundation will be hosting the fourth annual Champion of Hope Tribute Dinner, which will honor the 2001 Champions of Hope.

This year, the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan has chosen Paul Seldenright as a recipient of the award. When Paul retired from his 27-year career with the Michigan State AFL-CIO, he did not retire from public service. He has continued to demonstrate his dedication and commitment through service within his community and beyond. A member of the A. Philip Randolph Institute and lifetime member of the NAACP as well, his contribution to the fight for racial equality and economic justice has continued to serve as an example to communities across the country. Without leaders like Paul Seldenright, the mission to improve the lives of people with kidney disease through education, services, research, and organ donation would be that much more difficult.

I applaud the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan and Paul Seldenright for their leadership, advocacy, and community service. I know that Paul is honored by the recognition and I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting him as a 2001 recipient of the Champion of Hope Award.

RAISING AWARENESS OF VITILIGO

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2001

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to bring attention to a skin condition called Vitiligo. Vitiligo is a skin condition of white patches resulting from loss of pigment. This disease can strike anyone at anytime, and it is both genetic and environmental.

The typical Vitiligo macule is white in color, has convex margins, and appears as though the white areas were flowing into normally pigmented skin. The disease progresses by gradual enlargement of individual macules and the development of new white spots on various parts of the body.

Vitiligo affects between one and two percent of the population, regardless of sex, race, or age around the world. An estimated five million Americans are afflicted with Vitiligo. The

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

more dark-skinned a person is, the more their Vitiligo stands out. Because of the contrast between affected and unaffected areas of skin. In half of all Vitiligo cases, onset occurs between the ages of 10 and 30. There are, however, reported cases of Vitiligo present at birth.

Over 30% of affected individuals may report a positive family history. Both genetic and environmental factors contribute to Vitiligo. Many patients attribute the onset of their Vitiligo to physical trauma, illness or emotional distress, such as the death of a family member.

Treatment of this disease is essential. Vitiligo profoundly impacts the social and psychological well-being of its victims, especially children. Although, this disease is painless, the disfigurement of Vitiligo—accentuated among persons with dark or tan skin—can be devastating. Raising the public's awareness of this disease and its known treatment will bring relief to those who suffer from Vitiligo.

April has been declared Vitiligo Awareness Month by Governor Jeb Bush of Florida. The American Vitiligo Research Foundation, located in my district in Clearwater, Florida, is holding a seminar in April to bring attention to this disease. This is an opportunity for researchers and doctors to discuss and share information about Vitiligo. The seminar will also afford children with the disease the opportunity to understand that they are not alone.

I would like to thank Stella Pavlides of Clearwater, Florida, who brought this disease to my attention, and I commend her dedication to educating the public about Vitiligo. Although this disease does not physically harm a person, it can destroy one's spirit. Increased public awareness is the only way to help reduce the discrimination experienced by patients living with this disease.

CELEBRATING THE WOMEN OF LEWISTON/AUBURN

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2001

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call my colleague's attention to a dinner being held next week in the Lewiston/Auburn communities of Maine. The event, "Celebrating the Women of L/A," will honor women who have touched the lives of others in their communities.

For decades, the women of Lewiston and Auburn—like those throughout Maine, the nation and the world—have raised children, served as caregivers, worked inside and outside the home, and volunteered their time and talents. They have maintained a strong and quiet foundation for our families that has nourished us all. The celebration will recognize all that women bring to families and our community.

Those submitting nominations were asked to briefly describe what it was about the nominee that made her such a special and important part of the community. Here are a few examples:

She has a remarkable zest for life and a strong compassion for people who are less

fortunate than herself. She is a woman with seemingly endless energy, who knows no bounds when called upon to help.

Growing up all of my friends called her "Mom." Never one to pass judgment on our friends, she trusted that we would make the right choices. She always taught us to look beyond the surface. Those who know her know that they don't come much better than this. She is everything that I would ever want to be.

She is a wise person beyond her years. Her generosity is beyond words. She has a very kind heart and expects nothing in return. Her joy is seeing others happy.

In the professional arena, she has broadened her skills and experience by accepting new challenges and has dared to take on new responsibilities as she uncovered each potential opportunity.

She has deep morals and a deep spiritual connection to this universe. The world and my life would be a different place without her in it.

She is a very independent young woman who tries everyday to be true to herself. She understands that a healthy spirit allows her to be the best she can be for herself and everyone else that she loves.

She exemplifies everything that is fantastic in contemporary womanhood; she is strong, self-directed, intelligent, warm, involved, and committed to her community and its people.

When all else fails, she will at least make you laugh.

These are but a few examples of the testimonials received on behalf of the honorees. They speak to the importance and influence that these women have had on their families, colleagues, and communities.

I am proud to have the opportunity to pay tribute to the following Women of L/A here in the House of Representatives. The Honorees are Marie-Paule Badeau, Wendy Jean Beaucage, Kathryn Beaulé, Kim Blake, Sue Bowie, Rachael Caron, Joy Carter, Sonja Christiansen, Betty DeCoster, Kayt Demerchant, Lorraine Gosselin, Sandra Hinds, Melissa Holt, Pat Landean, Cathy Levesque, Marty McIntyre, Debbie McLean, Kathleen Noel King, Beverly Ouellette, Cecelia Palange/Sister Mary Vincent, Therese Parent, Joline Richard, Alta Rogers, Doris Roy, Therese Samson-Blais, Dale Sherburne, Lise Smith, Marguerite Stapleton, Jess Whitaker, and Janelle Wing.

These 30 women are all extremely deserving of this recognition, and I congratulate them as they are recognized for their efforts in the home, in the workplace and in the community. I know that they are also representative of many other women throughout the communities and as we honor them, we also look around at the many other women who have made positive differences in L/A. I offer my thanks and best wishes to all the women of L/A for making Lewiston and Auburn such a strong and vibrant community.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR VICTIMS OF DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKES IN EL SALVADOR

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, the massive earthquakes that have hit El Salvador, first on January 13 with a magnitude of 7.6 on the Richter Scale, and then on February 13 with a magnitude of 6.6, have brought untold hardships to a nation that has been working diligently to overcome previous natural disasters.

Hundreds of lives have been lost, thousands injured and a million more have been displaced, leaving them without food, water or shelter.

As Americans, it is our duty to pull together to help our friends and allies during times of extreme crisis. I urge our government to expedite relief efforts, especially where entities such as the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the United States Agency for International Development are concerned.

This disaster also affected me on a deeply personal level—I spent two years in the Peace Corps and the people I met and worked with during my time in El Salvador's rural villages welcomed me into their homes and into their hearts. My deepest sympathies go out to the people of El Salvador for the losses they have had to endure.

I have spoken with President Francisco Flores of El Salvador and he has informed me that a massive relief effort is underway to provide shelter, food and water. Many families are still taking refuge in public areas and soccer stadiums. He also expressed fears that disease may run rampant due to open sewage pipes and contaminated water. I assured President Flores that I would do what I could, to bring attention to this crisis. I also told him about the efforts going on in my home district of San Jose to help coordinate relief efforts.

Although the situation needs much attention, the most important thing to remember is that there is hope. I have seen, with my own eyes, the ability of El Salvadorans to persevere—and with the efforts of the good people in the United States, we must and will help the people of El Salvador pull through this trying time. Again, I strongly urge that we expedite our efforts to bring relief to the people of El Salvador.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. ADAM SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2001

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, March is Women's History Month and I would like to take this opportunity to honor Stacey Murphy, an elected City Council-member of the City of Burbank, California, as 2001 Woman of the Year for California's 27th Congressional District.